

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 115th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, a spiritual community dedicated to their church, to their neighborhood and to each other.

In the mid 1800's the Bohemian community in Cleveland was thriving. Industrialization and the Civil War created a need for skilled laborers. The original Rockefeller Refinery and the Standard Oil Company were among businesses in the area that recruited immigrants from Europe to work in the refineries. By 1882, it was evident that a new parish needed to be founded to serve the growing number of immigrants from Bohemia and Slovakia in Cleveland. Father Stephen Furdek responded to the need and made the journey from his native Prague to establish Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Subsequent pastors have continued the work of Father Furdek by building a first-rate Catholic School, Renovating the church building and guiding the parish through good times and bad.

The parish family has survived epidemics, wars, the Depression, and changing demographics in the neighborhood. Throughout the years the church, although of Bohemian ancestry, has developed into a congregation of Americans. Parishioners of various races and ethnic backgrounds are united by their common faith and dedication to their community.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 115th anniversary of a truly great and devoted parish, Our Lady of Lourdes.

SELECTIVE AGRICULTURAL EMBARGOES ACT OF 1998

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998, which my good friend Representative CONDIT and myself introduced today. This bill would require the approval of the House and the Senate if the President decided to impose an agriculture-specific embargo on a foreign country. This legislation would not interrupt embargoes currently in place, nor would it impede the President's authority to impose cross-sector embargoes.

The Soviet Grain Embargo is still very fresh in the minds of grain farmers throughout America. In the midst of an already poor overall economy the imposition of the Soviet Grain

Embargo triggered the worst agriculture economy in America since the Great Depression. With the enactment of the Freedom to Farm Act, our farmers are depending more and more on foreign markets for an increasingly significant portion of their income. Our farmers are marketing themselves as reliable suppliers of food and fiber to the world markets. Agriculture has a unique position in the U.S. export portfolio. While the overall trade balance has been in deficit since 1970, U.S. agriculture exports have consistently been in surplus. Our farmers are so productive and so efficient that the American market cannot possibly consume all that is produced. Because our farmers depend on foreign markets more than any other sector of our economy, they have the most to lose should an agriculture embargo be imposed. Congress should have input into any process that threatens the incomes of our farmers. This bill would allow the Congress and the American people a chance to fully debate the merits of any future agriculture-specific embargo. We owe it to our farmers to make sure that they do not bear a disproportionate share of the burden for U.S. foreign policy decisions. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1998.

TRIBUTE TO BETH KING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and praise an individual in my district who has worked tirelessly in her community and devoted much of her time to helping others. This individual continually strives for excellence and is willing to take on any project that comes her way. Her abilities to succeed and make a difference are matched by her compassion and kindness. This dedicated individual is Beth King.

Beth King is a member of the Board of Directors for the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation and, as such, is co-manager of its gift shop where she oversees purchasing, merchandising, bookkeeping and coordinating the staff of volunteers. She is also very active in the community and participates in several organizations. She is a member of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors, the Settlement House Board of Directors where she serves as treasurer, and the Circle Club Rotary Club where she serves as the Board of Directors member who serves as the Community Service Director.

Her time and energy have been well spent as a dedicated leader in fundraising on several committees, such as the Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation which hosts the Annual Gala, co-chaired by Beth in 1997. For three years, Beth has co-chaired the American Cancer Society Dinner Dance and Auction. These events have become two of the largest in Corona.

I would like to thank Beth for her innumerable contributions in her community. I encourage her to continue in her efforts to make the city of Corona a better place and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Ever since Thomas Jefferson first framed these words together—all men are created equal—men and women of all shapes, sizes, shades and statures have repeatedly maintained, declared, claimed and even believed that this nation is truly “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Unfortunately, even the most rudimentary historical research would reveal a less favorable assessment on this claim and aspiration of ours. This United States face daily challenges to live up to the Jeffersonian precept that “All men are indeed created equal” and, as in the past it seems we still are not doing what we should. As a second-class American citizen, a delegate, not quite a full Member of Congress hailing from an unincorporated territory with an unresolved political status, I am all too familiar with our nation's failure to live up to the true meaning of this declaration and our democratic creed. Today, I would like to share my views on another member of the club, second-class veterans.

In addition to being the congressional district geographically situated closest to the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and its people share deep cultural and historic ties with the Philippines. The people of Guam, as with Filipinos, have, for hundreds of years, endured occupation, colonialism and second-class treatment by others who were not indigenous to their homeland. Having also suffered through three long years of painful and brutal occupation under the Japanese, we, the people of Guam, understand and appreciate the sacrifices and plight of Filipino World War II veterans.

Comprised mainly of Filipino volunteers and recruits augmented by American soldiers, the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor delayed the Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific. This enabled U.S. forces to adequately prepare and launch the campaign to finally secure victory in the Pacific theater of World War II. Filipino veterans swore allegiance to the same flag, wore the same uniforms, fought, bled and died in the same battlefields alongside American comrades but were never afforded equal status. Prior to mass discharges and disbanding of their units in 1949, these veterans were paid only a third of what regular service members received at the time. Underpaid, having been denied benefits they were promised, and lacking proper

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

recognition, General MacArthur's words, "no army has ever done so much with so little," truly depict the plight of the remaining Filipino veterans today as they did half a century ago.

Although long overdue, the President's budget for this year includes funding for Filipino World War II veterans. Unfortunately, the \$5 million dollar yearly provision earmarked for a selected group of Filipino veterans for the next five years is too little, and for many who have since passed on, too late. In anticipation of this, Mr. Filner, who introduced H.R. 836, recently made a motion to increase the amount in the President's budget request in order to fund health care for Filipino veterans. This would not fulfill the promises made and reneged on 50 years ago, but it would ensure that surviving veterans would, at least, be provided the adequate medical care and treatment they deserve for their last few years.

I would like to recognize the members of the Guam Chapter of the Philippine Scouts Veterans Association, whose names I am submitting for the RECORD, for introducing and providing guidance to me on the issue. Along with Mr. Cornelio "Corky" Tapao, the man responsible for getting me acquainted with the association, these people made me recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions of these heroes who fought and died for our cause in World War II. In the past, this country has considered Filipinos as "little brown brothers." Let us take an extra step and go a long way toward recognizing them as equals by recognizing their service. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 836.

PHILIPPINE SCOUTS VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Federico Antolin; Jesus Armigos; Julio Balidio; Simeon Bautista; Albert Calub; Abraham Cancino; Antonio Catbagan; Alfredo De Jesus; Monorario Demasino; Avelino Espulgar; Cesar Estillore; Celestino Franco; Gavino Gonzales; Ross Gonzalo; Hermongenes Guanga; Marciano Iglesias; Bonifacio LaPuebla; Conrad Loreque; Constanicio Madeloso; Gerry Magpale; Gordon Mailloux; Norbert Mallorca; Pete Mandapat; Ignacio Manuel; Pacifico Muyco; Estelito Papa; Andres Placides; Ignacio Manuel; Artemio Razalan; Teofilo Robeniol; Juanito Roldan; Joe Redonia; Hipolito Sarmiento; Fred Somera; Mercedes Yara; Efen Zabala

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BREL"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the most successful theatrical production in Cleveland, Ohio, "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris."

During the 1970's racial tensions in Cleveland were high, suburban shopping malls were gaining popularity, and interest in the downtown area was dismal. Shops and restaurants were closing and once magnificent, busy buildings were abandoned. Ray Shepardson, a guidance counselor from Seattle, had the foresight to recognize the potential of the theaters of Playhouse Square, the forgotten gems

of downtown. He organized support in the community to save the theaters from scheduled demolition and to restore them to their original grandeur. He was determined to prove that downtown entertainment in Cleveland would thrive.

After restoration of the theaters, the show that brought people who hadn't been downtown in decades back was "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," created and directed by Dr. Joseph Garry. The cabaret-style show features 4 extraordinary singers performing 26 songs by Jaques Brel, a contemporary French poet, philosopher, troubadour, artist, rebel, lover, cynic, and sentimentalist. In the Director's words, "Brel" is more than a cabaret show, "it is a series of impressions, perceptions, and truths. It is bitter, it is sweet, it is agonizing, it is loving. It is the mind, heart and soul of a sensitive contemporary man."

On April 18, 1973 "Brel" opened for a planned three-week run to an audience of 300 people who fell in love with the show and with the vision of a revitalized downtown Cleveland. A record-breaking two years and 600 performances later, the show had a recording, a national reputation, and sometimes an even bigger crowd than the Indians. It proved Ray Shepardson correct—people really would come downtown to the theaters at Playhouse Square.

Twenty-five years after that opening night, the historic theaters of Playhouse Square and downtown Cleveland continue to draw great crowds, and "Brel" is the musical phenomenon that started it all. I would like to salute the Director, Joseph Garry, the Musical Director, David Gooding, the original cast, Cliff Bemis, David Frazier, Providence Hollander, and Theresa Piteo and everyone involved in carrying on the legacy of "Brel."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ALFREDO A. XERES-BURGOS, SR.

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo A. Xeres-Burgos, Sr., a Philippine National who has helped preserve a valiant moment in American history on the island of Corregidor, Philippines. Colonel Burgos has demonstrated unique perseverance and deserves our gratitude and recognition.

May 6, 1998, will mark the 56th anniversary of the fall of the Corregidor to Imperial Japanese forces. For those who fought under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor against Imperial Japan and who survived the infamous Bataan death march and captivity in Japanese prison camps these memories have not faded. During these historic events and throughout the war, U.S. Marines and Filipinos displayed selfless sacrifice rivaling any other military units.

Filipino and United States defenders of the Philippines engaged Japanese forces from the beaches of the Philippine islands to the last defense of Bataan and Corregidor in a grueling battle lasting 150 days. That defense compelled Japan to divert thousands of additional

troops to the Philippines. In that defense, the members of the Filipino forces and their United States counterparts struggled against difficult odds and desperate circumstances and faced, with indomitable spirit, fortitude, and loyalty to America, powerful Imperial Japanese forces.

Today, the island of Corregidor is a superb living monument to the courage of the American soldiers, sailors and Marines who defended it, and to the horror of war. Thanks to the initiative taken by Colonel Burgos, Corregidor is one of the most impressive of all WWII memorial parks to be found anywhere in the world.

Colonel Burgos has repaired the battered road linking the gun batteries and bomb-shattered buildings of this fortress, Fort Mills. He has created informative signs, trained guides and organized tours and transportation while walking a fine line between preserving historic relics for the benefit of posterity and a benefit for tourists from all over the world. In 1995, Colonel Burgos served as the personal guide to President Clinton when he visited Corregidor. Most amazing is the way Colonel Burgos has persevered over the years in preserving this WWII island fortress despite a number of difficulties and inadequate funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a member of my constituency who has worked hard to honor the legacy of Colonel Burgos: Robert F. Reynolds. Through his efforts, Mr. Reynolds has ensured that Colonel Burgos is recognized for his hard work and dedication to Corregidor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Colonel Alfredo Xeres-Burgos for his dedication to Fort Mills and Corregidor. The American veterans who survived the Fall of Bataan and the Fall of Corregidor can be proud that we have not forgotten the battlefield where they so valiantly fought. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Burgos and wishing him many more years of success.

SALUTING THE FIRST TIME VISIT OF A JOINT DELEGATION FROM THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the history of the United States a Joint Delegation of the Parliamentary Committee of MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market), comprised of both Senators and Representatives from the Congresses of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, recently visited Washington, DC to meet with their United States counterparts.

The visit of the Delegation emphasizes the transformation that has taken place in the last decade and a half in these four South American countries. Understanding the need to decentralize their economies, these countries worked together to establish policies and regulations that have resulted in successful market-oriented economies.

The fifteen legislators from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in several working sessions, met with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the House Committee on International Relations, and with